

## Holy Thursday April 9, 2020

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***\*\*Before beginning, gather a candle and matches (or a small lamp), a Bible, a piece of bread and a small glass of water for each person.***

### Call to Worship

God is with us.

**We are not alone.**

Christ is with us.

**The Risen One has met us, blessed and fed us on the road that leads us home.**

The community of the Holy Spirit is with us.

**We gather with the communion of the saints throughout history and with God's people around the world.**

### Opening Hymn

### What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this,  
That caused the Lord of bliss,  
To bear the dreadful curse,  
For my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing!  
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I AM, "  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing!  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on!  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on.



**First reading:**

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

*Light the candle.*

**Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. You are our Risen Lord in whom light has conquered darkness.**

*Sit silently in the light, feeling the power and presence of the Risen Christ.*

**Second reading:**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

*Hold the Bible.*

**Here in our hands is the story of God's covenant of love with his people. We are assured of God's presence with us at all times and places – even in the midst of fear and difficulty.**

*Sit quietly and absorb the stories of God's love and grace that can sustain you wherever you are.*

**Third reading:**

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (John 7:37-38)

*Hold the glass of water in your hands.*

**Without water, there can be no life. In creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the water and brought forth light. God brought John to the Jordan River to call us to repentance. We were nourished in the water of the womb. We were baptized by water and the Spirit into God's family. Water reminds us of the gifts of creation that God has so abundantly given us, and of the love and grace we have all received.**

*Drink the water slowly. Feel it flow into your body. Know that God's love is flowing into your body and soul right now.*

**Fourth reading:**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

*Take a piece of bread in your hands.*

**Jesus broke bread and fed the multitudes. Jesus broke bread and formed a new covenant with his closest friends and with all who break bread in remembrance of him. Jesus was made known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Bread reminds us that, just like individual grains of wheat are gathered together to make a single loaf, we who are scattered are one body in Christ.**

*Break and eat the piece of bread that you are holding. Remember the times you have received bread in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Remember those who gathered with you. Remember the presence of Jesus in that moment. Be assured that he is with you in every moment of your life. Sit silently and allow Jesus' love to surround you.*

**PRAYER**

*In the silence after every petition (marked by . . .) specific names or situations may be spoken aloud or held closely in the heart.*

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, you speak to us words of life. Call forth in us rivers of living water, and feed our deepest hunger. In trying times, in times of loneliness or confusion, in times we feel most alone, remind us that we are never alone, for you are with us always.

Hear us now, as we lift up:

- ❖ Those whom we love – those present with us and those from whom we are separated . . .
- ❖ The prisoners, and those held captive physically, mentally, or spiritually . . .
- ❖ The sick and the suffering . . .
- ❖ Those who care for the sick, both medical caregivers and families who wait and watch with them . . .
- ❖ Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, the loss of freedom, the loss of security, the loss of a livelihood, or the loss of a sense of order and control . . .

- ❖ Those with more questions than answers, and all who long for your guiding light for their path . . .
- ❖ The lonely, the isolated, and those who long for a loving touch . . .
- ❖ Those whose remaining days on this earth are few, and for those walking in the valley of the shadow of death . . .
- ❖ Those whom we too easily forget, and those whose needs are known only to you . . .

God of compassion, hear our prayers; fill us with your grace, and inspire us to be instruments of mercy and hope, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Closing Hymn                    O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

1 O sacred Head, now wounded,  
with grief and shame weighed down;  
now scornfully surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred Head, what glory,  
what bliss 'til now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call thee mine.

2 What thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
was all for sinners' gain:  
mine, mine was the transgression,  
but thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve thy place;  
look on me with thy favor,  
vouchsafe to me thy grace.

3 What language shall I borrow  
to thank thee, dearest Friend,  
for this, thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?  
O make me thine forever;  
and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
outlive my love to thee.